



# FRIDAY NOTICE

7<sup>th</sup> November 2014

[www.cottageschool.tas.edu.au](http://www.cottageschool.tas.edu.au)

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## What's happening in November/December:

November	7 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	Biggies to Marimba Mania
	8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>SCHOOL FAIR</b>
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Prep/Grade 1 Bike Day
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	Biggies Environment Day
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	Kinder Bike Day
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Middlies Grade 2 Bike Day
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	First Day Prep/Grade 1 Orana Camp
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Last Day Prep/Grade 1 Orana Camp
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Friday	Schools Triathlon
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Friday	Prep/Grade 1 Campers – NO SCHOOL
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	First Day Grades 2/3/4/5/6 Camp
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Last Day Grades 2/3/4/5/6 Camp
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	Grades 2/3/4/5/6 Campers – NO SCHOOL
December	1 <sup>st</sup>	Monday	Middlies 1/2 Environment Day
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday	Kinder/Prep/1 Environment Day
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Grade Six Leavers Day
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	Whole School BBQ lunch and afternoon games at the park
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Leavers Ceremony and School Concert
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	End of Term Four – <b>HALF DAY ONLY – SCHOOL ENDS 12.30pm</b>
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	EVERYBODY HAVE A BIG SLEEP IN ;)

**Classes For 2015:** The groups list for 2015 is attached. Changes have been made to our group structures in response to changes in the student distribution across the school. This will impact on groupings for coming years. We have tried to remain as flexible and creative in our response as possible, so that the best interests of each child, socially and academically are considered. Further considerations in the organisation of the groups were the size of the classes and the teaching space available to each group.

If you have any queries please direct these in writing to the committee rather than directly approaching teachers. We can then arrange a time to speak to parents as a group and communicate how the decision making process was undertaken.

**Mayfield Camp Information (Grades 2-6):** Due to a recent incident on bike day, Kath has sustained an injury, which has meant she has not been able to return to work (temporarily) and will not be able to attend the Mayfield Camp. We have been able to cover her absence by staffing the camp with following personnel. Hana Patel, Anne Patel, Georgie Cottier, Simon Moore, Graeme Holmes, Mel Thurling, Tom Barnes and Paul Martin. Due to this unfortunate circumstance we have also changed the duration of the camp, which will now run from **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November to Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November**. **Monday 24<sup>th</sup>** will be a normal school day with a cooked lunch. On **Friday 28<sup>th</sup>** the children will have the day off as scheduled in the calendar. The camp list for the children is attached.

**Middlies 3/4 Environment Day:** We had an Environment Day scheduled for this Monday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. Perhaps a little ambitious since we have already done an Environment Day and Bike Day! With camp coming up and so many projects on the go, Graeme and I feel that we would really benefit from a day on the books. We'll be here for cooked lunch, so there's a bonus! With such a short term I just don't think we are going to be able to reschedule or fit another one in.

**Kinders Bike Day:** The Kinders will leave school at 10:00 on Wednesday and walk their bikes down to the Bellerive Beach bike track. Please ensure that bikes are in good working order and your child has a comfortable and properly fitted helmet.

**School Treasurer:** The committee have identified the need for a strong and active school Treasurer to join the committee ideally before the end of this school year. We are looking for a person with a background in finance or accounting to fill this role. The person must be willing to participate in committee meetings, and participate, if not lead the finance sub-committee.

If we are unable to find someone to take on this role internally, the committee is of the view that we will need to pay for external accounting assistance to fulfill this role in the short to medium term, until a School Leader is in place.

Would any interested parents please contact the School President Jonathan Bedloe.

**Flags:** During the school holidays a local resident left a message on our answering machine about the Aboriginal flag. She said that it was illegal to fly the Aboriginal flag without also having the Australian National flag flying. I've asked the State Government's Protocols Office and they have assured me that it doesn't contravene flag flying protocol to fly the Aboriginal flag without the Australian flag. Unfortunately, the contact number left in the message was incorrect so I've been unable to discuss this with the person who left the message. She may discuss this issue with a parent while passing the school one day. If she does please assure her that we've investigated the issue and we did try to contact her. Thank you

#### **Sustainable Schools Award – Cottage School receives a Highly Commended award:**

Earlier this year the Cottage School entered the Sustainable Schools Award program run by Keep Australia Beautiful (Tas). This involved hosting a visit from the award judge during which we demonstrated our response to four categories ie

- presentation of the school,
- approach to sustainability,
- community links, and;
- youth leadership and participation.

This was the first time our school had entered these awards and it provided a really useful opportunity to pause and reflect on how we approach sustainability. There are lots of things that we are doing really well eg curriculum approaches, composting, growing food in the school garden for cooked lunch and Garden Market, minimising litter through our Food Policy, operating a system of family jobs/working bees which encourage and involve everyone in looking after our school. The award process also encouraged us to look at ways in which we could improve and build on our approach to sustainability.

During late October the winners in each of the three regions in the State were announced. For each region there was one primary and one secondary school winner. Bruny Island Primary School won southern region award and the Cottage School received a Highly Commended award (whoo hoo!) We were the only school in the State to be 'Highly Commended'.

This was a really encouraging result, especially as it was our first year of entering these awards. Well done us! A big thank you to the staff and families who had input into the entry and hosting the visit by the award judge, and particularly to Gabrielle who took the lead on this initiative. A great achievement. Jonathan

Sustainable Living Festival on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 at Princes Wharf 1 Hobart. Cost is \$5 (includes free SLT membership). FREE for kids and SLT members.

Take part in the 2014 Urban Wellbeing Survey: The University of Canberra is currently conducting an Urban Wellbeing Survey to address these questions and they want to hear from parents. The survey is running in Australia's major urban areas including Hobart and Launceston. Key results will be available free online in 2015 and every suburb receiving more than 100 responses will be profiled. Survey is located online at [www.urbanwellbeing.org.au](http://www.urbanwellbeing.org.au). The survey is voluntary, anonymous and has a prize draw. It is open until 23 November 2014

Okines Community Garden: We are excited to be hosting a LIVING SIMPLY FORUM on Sunday November 16<sup>th</sup> (same day as the market) at 11am down in the garden shed. This event will be hosted by Helen Shields (ABC) and feature guest speakers Christina Giudicci from FIMBY, Jamie Kirkpatrick, Mark Sands, Karen Harrland, Helene Thomas and Mandy Renard. We will be firing up the pizza oven to sell yummy garden pizzas for \$10 (whole) or \$2.50 per slice. We hope to see you.

**Attachments:** 2015 Class Groups List. Grades 2/3/4/5/6 Camp List